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A
C O N F E S S I O N
O F
F A I T H,
Deliver'd at His
O R D I N A T I O N
T O T H E
M I N I S T R Y,

January 11th. 17 ^{$\frac{20}{21}$} .

By CLERK OLDISWORTH, *M. A.*



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O F
F A I T H.



H A T there is an *In-
visible* BEING in and
over the World, whom
we call GOD; is with
me so necessary a *Truth*,
that without presupposing such a
BEING; I can give no tollerable
Account of the Being of any Thing
at all.

WITH this GOD, I have infinitely more to do, and *from* Him infinitely more to Hope or to Fear, than from all the World besides; and therefore, to stand always upon good Terms with Him; to glorify and please Him all I can; my *Reason* tells me, can be no less my *Interest*, than it is my *Duty*.

BUT how to do this in a Way and Manner acceptable to Him, and comfortable to myself; I'm sensible my best Notices from the *Light* of *Nature*, are insufficient to direct. The *Light* that can fully and satisfactorily reveal this, must break out immediately from Heaven itself; and so (I am verily persuaded) it did upon the Prophets, Apostles and Evangelists, the Pen-Men of the Holy Scriptures. For,

THE *Excellency* of the Doctrine contain'd in these *Writings*; the moral Duties they prescribe manifestly tending

tending to advance the Honour of the True God, my Creator, and to promote my own, and my Neighbour's Good, either alone or in Society; the Rewards and Punishments annexed, being all *eternal*, yet, so wisely contriv'd as to admit of different Degrees, according to the Difference of the *Weight* of Duty perform'd, or *Greatness* of the Fault committed; These Things (I say) together with the Manifestation of the Power, Wisdom, and Knowledge of GOD therein discover'd, are to me undeniable Proofs, That *these Scriptures came not by the Will of Man*; but, the *holy Men of GOD*, spake as they were moved by the HOLY GHOST.

WHATEVER is necessary to be known or done in order to *Salvation*, I look upon to be so fully reveal'd in Scripture, that I need not have recourse to any *ancient Traditions*, or *new Revelations*, much less, the *Puzzle*, and sometimes, unintelligible *Determinations* of the Schools. For, WHAT-

W H A T E V E R is contain'd there as so *Necessary*, I *Believe* to be very plain, open, and intelligible to every impartial and sincere Inquirer. Because, I am persuaded that a Wise and a Good G O D, when He design'd to reveal his Will to *Babes and Sucklings*, He would not choose to do it with *Obscurity*. And therefore,

W H A T E V E R is not easy to come at *this Way*, I *Believe* not necessary; that is to say, Those Parts of Scripture, which with all my Labour and Diligence, I cannot understand, I *Believe* I need not; nor will my Ignorance of them, any Way prejudice my *Salvation*.

A C C O R D I N G to the Scripture, I declare myself a *Christian*, the only Denomination I am bound to own, as it implies an entire Subjection to the Lord J E S U S C H R I S T, the onely Master I am oblig'd in all Things

Things to follow ; when I am ordered , to *call no Man Master upon Earth* ; for *One is your Master in Heaven* : And when from Heaven it was declar'd, *This is my Beloved Son*, hear him. And if next to the Name of *Christian*, I do at all value the Name *Protestant*, and sometimes use it ; it is upon this Account, That as it is no Man's proper Name, it cannot import an Attachment to any Man's Authority, as a Rival to the Name of CHRIST ; but is rather another Manner of calling myself a *Christian* ; because I protest thereby against all such Usurpations of Men, as are prejudicial to CHRIST's Authority, and my Christian Liberty.

I RECEIVE nothing therefore as an Article of *Faith*, nor look upon myself as under an Obligation to any Thing, but what is either *expressly* to be found in this *Book* ; or by such Consequence deducible from it, as upon due Search and Inquiry

A CONFESSIO

quiry, I can see with my own Eyes to be just and necessary.

'Tis *thus* that I submit to the Divine Authority of the Bible, which I receive as the Word of GOD and infallible *Truth*.

I ACCORDINGLY declare my Belief of *One onely Supreme BEING*, Infinite, Immense, Eternal, and necessarily Existent; the *onely Living, and True GOD*; I Believe Him to be *Omnipotent*, that *with Him all Things are possible*, but only such Things as He will not do, and therefore will not, because if He did, He would cease to be GOD.— This GOD is *Great*, and greatly to be fear'd; *Good*, and inestimably to be loved; *Wise*, and absolutely to be obey'd. He is of purer Eyes than to approve of, and yet of more piercing Eyes, than not to behold the least *Iniquity*. For I Believe, that as 'tis his Nature to be *Holy*, so 'tis his Prerogative to be *Omniscient*, that there is
nothing

nothing so secret, but is naked and open to the Eye of that GOD, with whom we have to do. That tho' I may foolishly imagine, Surely the Dark-ness shall cover me; even the Night shall be Light about me; yea, the Dark-ness, hideth not from Him; but the Night shineth as the Day, the Dark-ness and the Light are both alike unto GOD.

IN a Word, I believe that He is an every Way most Perfect BEING.

I BELIEVE according to the *Scripture Revelation*, That in the Deity or Godhead, there is the Ever-blessed Three, FATHER, SON, and HOLY GHOST, in whose Name every Christian is baptized, and to whom the highest Titles and Properties of GOD are in Scripture attributed.

I BELIEVE, that *in the Beginning* was the Word, and the Word was with GOD, and the Word was
B GOD

A CONFESSION

GOD. That all Things were made by Him, and that without Him there was nothing made that was made. That He is the LORD by whom are all Things, and we by Him; the Brightness of the FATHER'S Glory, and the express Image of His Person, and in whom dwells all the Fulness of the GOD-HEAD Bodily; and that He is over all, GOD Blessed for evermore.

I BELIEVE that all Things which the FATHER hath are His, and whatsoever the FATHER doth, the same also doth the SON likewise. That He is the First and the Last, the same Yesterday, to Day, and for Ever; for thus saith the FATHER unto the SON, Thy Throne, O GOD, is for ever and ever; a Sceptre of Righteousness, is the Sceptre of Thy Kingdom.

I BELIEVE in the HOLY GHOST, the Holy SPIRIT of GOD, into whose Name we are also baptized,
who

who inspired the Prophets and Apostles. That the Bodies of the Saints are Temples of this Holy SPIRIT in which He dwells; that he that lyes unto the HOLY GHOST, lyeth not unto Man, but unto GOD, who searcheth all Things, even the deep Things of GOD. That He intercedes in Believers, leads into Truth, assists in Duty, supports under Troubles, as the Comforter; carries on the Work of Sanctification, and is the Earnest of the Eternal Inheritance,

IT is thus that I believe according to Scripture, That there are Three that bear Record in Heaven, the FATHER, the WORD, and the SPIRIT, and these Three are One. Hoping for the Grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and Love of GOD, and the Communion of the HOLY GHOST to be with me evermore.

I BELIEVE that GOD the FATHER Almighty, known unto whom are

all his Works from the Beginning to the End, as well as determining the End from the Beginning; saying my Counsel shall stand, and I will do all my Pleasure; in the Moment appointed by his Wisdom, spake this Universe into Being; that by his SON and SPIRIT He spread forth the Heavens, and marshall'd all their Hosts. It was He that hung up the Earth in the midst of the Air, and breath'd forth all the Creatures upon the Face of it. It was He that pour'd forth the great Deeps, and measur'd them all in the Hollow of his Hand. And all this for the Service of that one Noble Creature Man, with which he summ'd up the whole Creation.

I BELIEVE, that as Weak and Wicked as we now feel ourselves, it was otherwise with us from the Beginning. Accordingly, this have I found, that GOD at first made Man upright, and 'twas a beautiful Hand that fram'd him; but he soon
fought

fought out many Inventions; and by that Means, of a Creature once but little lower than the Angels, he became more vile than the Beasts that perish. That by the Disobedience of that one Man, many were made Sinners; and as by one Man Sin entered into the World, and Death by Sin; so Death pass'd upon all Men, for that all have sinned, and come short of the Glory of GOD.

I BELIEVE, That GOD out of his eternal Good-will, form'd the merciful Project of Man's Recovery still securing his own Honour and the Authority of his Law; which He effectually did by appointing one MEDIATOR between GOD and Man, the Man CHRIST JESUS; laying upon Him the Iniquity of us all. Which Method of Salvation, tho' but darkly reveal'd at first in that single Promise of the *Seed of the Woman*, and in some Sense *the mystery hid from Ages* afterwards in the Types and Figures of the Jewish Dispensation;

tion; yet I believe, grew brighter and brighter, the nearer it drew to the Rising of the Sun of Righteousness For,

I BELIEVE, That in the Fullness of Time CHRIST came, whose Birth in the City of *David*, was those Tydings of great Joy which at that Time happen'd unto all People.

I BELIEVE, That in Him the Scriptures were fulfill'd; that He was a Teacher sent of GOD, of whom *Moses* said unto the Fathers, A Prophet shall the LORD your GOD raise up; that He is that *King* of Saints, of whom its said, He shall reign in Righteousness over the House of *Jacob* for ever; a Leader and Commander of the People, of whose Kingdom there shall be no End.

I BELIEVE also, That He was made a *Priest* for ever, not after the Law of a carnal Commandment,
but

but the Power of an endless Life.

I BELIEVE, That He was GOD,
and the Son of GOD; and yet Man,
and the Son of Man, made of a Wo-
man, yet without Sin; made under
the Law, so as to fulfill every *lot*
and Tittle of it; thus far, finishing
the Work the FATHER had given
Him to do. But,

I BELIEVE also, That He
was made a Curse for us; all his
Life-time a Man of Sorrows, and
acquainted with Grief, till at last
by wicked Hands He was crucify'd
and slain. That when He hung
on the Cross without the Gate of
Jerusalem, He bore our Sins in his
own Body on the Tree; there ma-
king his Soul an Offering for Sin;
and by this one Offering, has for
ever perfected them that are san-
ctify'd.

I BELIEVE, That when He had
by Himself thus purg'd away our
Sins;

Sins ; He was dead and bury'd ; but it being impossible that He should be holden of Death so long as to see Corruption ; I believe, that on the third Day He rose again, and after an abode here on Earth for the Space of Forty Days (to subserve very Wise and Gracious Purposes) He ascended into Heaven, in a very glorious and triumphant manner, there to receive Gifts for Men, and among others that of the HOLY GHOST, concerning whom we have a Promise, That He shall abide with us for ever. So that

I BELIEVE, in Him we are compleat. None can lay any Thnig to the Charge of G O D's Elect, seeing it is G O D that justifieth ; none can condemn ; for it is CHRIST that dy'd ; or rather is risen again ; who is even at the Right Hand of G O D, making Intercession for us. However,

I BELIEVE, None to whom this
Gospel

Gospel is Preached, can be justify'd before GOD, and sav'd by this REDEEMER, but by *Faith*, and that is not of ourselves, but the Gift of GOD. For it is to as many as receive Him, and to them only that He gives the Power to become the Sons of GOD. Not but this is a faithful Saying, and what I will endeavour to affirm constantly, That they who have believ'd in GOD, must be careful to maintain good Works.

I BELIEVE also, That all who are the Heirs of the Grace of Life, are chang'd, and renew'd in the Spirit of their Mind; which Change is not of Man, or the Will of Man, but of GOD; the Arm of the LORD being reveal'd, and that freely of his Grace.

I BELIEVE one Holy Catholick, Apostolick Church, thus wash'd, and sanctified in the Name of the Lord JESUS, and by the Spirit

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rit of our G O D ; that to this Church daily, and to the End of the World, shall be added such as shall be saved. I believe, for this Purpose CHRIST has appointed a Ministry of Reconciliation ; that Sinners may believe on Him of whom they have heard ; and that others, as they have receiv'd CHRIST may walk in Him.

I BELIEVE, That for the same End, He has instituted the Two Sacraments of Baptism, and the LORD'S Supper, both which are of perpetual Use until He come.

FINALLY, I believe, The Hour is coming when all that are in the Graves shall hear the Voice of the Son of Man, and shall come forth, they that have done Good unto the Resurrection of Life, and they that have done Evil unto the Resurrection of Damnation. For,


I BELIEVE, When the Dead shall be thus rais'd, they shall never dye more, but all shall be adjudg'd to their everlasting State,

As, to the *Wicked*, they shall be cast in outer Darkness, where the Worm dieth not, and the Fire is not quench'd; the slow, but sure Vengeance, which GOD will take on those who obey not the Gospel of His Dear Son.

WHEREAS, Happy, thrice Happy the *Righteous*; for they shall then shine as the *Sun* in the Kingdom of their FATHER. A Kingdom where there is no Night, nor any need of the Sun or Moon; for the Glory of the LORD shall lighten it, and the *Lamb* is the Light thereof.

F I N I S.

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OD's Good-will to *Great Bri-*
tain: Being a Sermon preach-
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